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Letter dated 9 September 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to express the Government of Pakistan's deep concern at the reported plan by India to construct a 10 m high and 41 m wide embankment (wall) along the 197 km working boundary between Indian-occupied Jammu and Kashmir, and Pakistan.

The State of Jammu and Kashmir is internationally recognized as a disputed territory, with a number of Security Council resolutions on the official status of Jammu and Kashmir awaiting implementation.

In Security Council resolutions 47 (1948) of 21 April 1948, 51 (1948) of 3 June 1948, 80 (1950) of 14 March 1950, 91 (1951) of 30 March 1951 and 122 (1957) of 24 January 1957, and in the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan resolutions of 13 August 1948 and 5 January 1949, the Security Council and the Commission indicate that the final disposition of the State of Jammu and Kashmir would be made in accordance with the will of the people expressed through the democratic method of a free and impartial plebiscite conducted under the auspices of the United Nations. According to these resolutions, no party to the dispute is allowed to bring about a material change in the situation on the ground.

The Government of Pakistan considers the embankment a permanent structure that will bring about a material change in the territory in violation, inter alia, of paragraph 2 of Security Council resolution 38 (1948), in which the Council calls upon India and Pakistan "to inform the Council immediately of any material change in the situation which occurs or appears to either of them to be about to occur while the matter is under consideration by the Council, and consult with the Council thereon".

The Government of Pakistan believes that the embankment will create a fait accompli aimed at permanently creating a physical and psychological barrier for the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who have yet to exercise their right to self-determination, as enshrined in Security Council resolutions. Pakistan considers this an Indian effort aimed at converting the line of control and the working boundary into a quasi-international border. This is an unacceptable breach of Security Council resolutions.

We have already formally lodged a protest with the Indian Government. We hope that the Security Council will also take note of this serious situation and urge

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India to refrain from undertaking actions that could bring about a material change in the situation on the ground, in violation of Security Council resolutions.

I would be grateful if you could circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Maleeha **Lodhi**